

In September 1999, after dedicating to *El Diario-La Prensa* nine of her seventeen years in the news media, Ms. Rosado was promoted to Publisher and CEO to oversee the day-to-day operations of the entire paper. She, once again, became the first Latina in the U.S. to hold such a high-ranking post in the newspaper-publishing world. This move provided her with the opportunity to cross over to the business and revenue side of the newspaper industry, a new frontier for Latinos in general and for women in particular. It is interesting to mention that her first experience as a reporter was at *El Diario-La Prensa* where she covered my home borough of the Bronx as well as City Hall, and wrote a weekly column. Ms. Rosado has had a diverse career in the N.Y. media, which includes work at radio and television stations, print media and public service.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Rosado is the recipient of several prestigious awards including an Emmy for her work in television. Among many tributes, in March 2002, she received the NYS Governor's award for Excellence—“Women Sustaining the American Spirit”—in honor of Women's History Month. How fitting, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Rosado served as a member of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's transition team. She serves as Director on the board of United Way of NYC and September 11th Fund, as well as in other organizations. She is a graduate of Pace University, in White Plains, New York where she received her B.A. in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Rossana Rosado for her leadership and extraordinary contributions to the advancement of journalism and in wishing her continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2003, during the House's consideration of H.R. 97, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, I was recorded as voting “yea” on rollcall vote No. 72, the substitute amendment offered by Mr. NADLER of New York. I should have been recorded as voting “nay” on the Nadler substitute amendment.

#### IMPROVING PARENTAL CHOICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

### HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, today I submit for introduction a bill to improve education for children with special needs by encouraging innovative approaches to parental involvement and flexibility.

This legislation is meant to enhance other reforms being proposed in the IDEA reauthorization bill. Those reforms will improve special education by reducing the paperwork burden for educators, improving early intervention

strategies, reducing misidentification of special needs students, and restoring trust between parents and districts by reducing litigation. I believe we must empower parents to be more involved in their child's education.

My legislation would help states create customized education systems for children with special needs. Many states would like to offer options for children with special needs. Unfortunately, the current IDEA structure does nothing to promote these alternatives. This new legislation encourages states to research and develop scholarship programs for children with special needs, providing parents the opportunity to choose the education they see as a best fit for their child.

The Improving Parental Choice bill would give states greater flexibility in providing for supplemental services. Students with special needs should have the flexibility to access the tutoring services of their choice. My bill would make it permissible for districts to use their federal IDEA reserved funds to provide greater opportunities for participation in outside supplemental education services. Children at a school designated for improvement under No Child Left Behind would have the opportunity to access the support services preferred by their family.

This legislation would also allow pre-school age children to continue education with successful and comfortable providers. Children under age three currently receive special needs service from the provider of their choice. This legislation would expand the options of parents and decrease transition problems for the youngest children with disabilities by allowing states to expand programs that currently serve children ages 0–2. It would allow children to continue participation in their preferred program (including private providers) until age five when the child begins school.

Children with special needs have different needs. They deserve education services that are customized for their personal needs. This legislation will provide parents with more resources and more opportunities for their children with disabilities.

#### IMPROVING PARENTAL CHOICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2003

### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleague from South Carolina in offering this important legislation to improve and increase the options available to parents of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The IDEA reauthorization is a top priority for my Committee this year. We want to build on the success of the No Child Left Behind Act and align IDEA with NCLB.

One of our key principles for reauthorization is the encouragement of innovative approaches to parental involvement and parental choice. IDEA already contains choice, for the educated and the wealthy. There is no reason to deny millions of parents those same opportunities. We should empower all parents to expand their participation and increase knowledge of their rights and responsibilities under the law.

This bill would accomplish three goals:

Encourage states to develop innovative, flexible choice programs for children with disabilities and permitting states that have such programs to allow federal funds to follow the child based on the parents' choice. According to a report by Education Week, Florida's pioneering program, launched two years ago under Governor Jeb Bush and Lieutenant Governor Frank Brogan, resulted in state education officials receiving more than 14,000 inquiries from parents interested in exploring scholarships as a means of securing the best education possible for their children. Federal law should not discourage other states from emulating the Florida model or from engaging in other innovative efforts to improve choices for the parents of children with special needs.

Permit districts to use their funds under this Act to provide necessary accommodations (including reasonable, additional expenses) to allow children with disabilities being educated in schools designated for improvement under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to participate in supplemental educational services. NCLB, enacted in 2002 with overwhelming bipartisan support, guarantees parents with children in underachieving federally-funded schools—including children with disabilities—the right to obtain tutoring and other supplemental educational services for their children from providers reimbursed with their children's share of federal education funds. Eligible providers include private and faith-based providers of educational services. NCLB established an important historical precedent for the portability of federal Title I education funds, in which the money follows the child. The same principle should be applied to federal special education funds when children with special needs are otherwise being denied the opportunity for a quality education.

Expand the options of parents and decrease transition problems for the youngest children with disabilities by allowing states to expand current Part C (currently ages 0–2) programs to children that would otherwise be participating in Section 619 (ages 3–5). Parents can choose for their preschooler to remain in the Part C program with their current providers (including private providers) without interruption or transition from traditional Part C at age 3.

School choice, particularly for children with disabilities, provides a constructive way to continue to improve public education by insisting on excellence for every child. I strongly believe that parents are in the best position to determine where their child should be educated. We should allow all parents the right and the responsibility to have that choice.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure to give parents and children with disabilities the choice they deserve.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. JOHN LARSEN

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate FBI Agent John Larsen on being named the U.S. Marshals Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. His dedication and desire to work for the cause of

justice is a model for all law enforcement officers.

Agent Larsen was a key figure in the prosecution of Robert Burke. Burke was convicted of supplying the handcuff key to Jeffery Erickson, who ultimately used it to escape confinement and murder Deputy U.S. Marshal Roy Frakes and Court Security Officer Harry Belloumini in 1992.

For the past ten years, Agent Larsen has worked tirelessly to uncover evidence for this case that may never have been found otherwise. Agent Larsen first located Mr. Burke in Ireland, and then helped facilitate his extradition back to the United States on charges of perjury. He then oversaw over 180 witness interviews, most of which were with inmates, being asked to recall conversations that had taken place over a decade ago. Having nothing to offer some of these witnesses for their testimony, Agent Larsen had to implore upon their sense of decency to bring some closure to the family and the United States Marshals Service.

Through perseverance, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to justice, Agent Larsen was a crucial factor in bringing an emotional case to a close.

Mr. Speaker, John Larsen's record of service and the fruits of his labor speak for themselves. Earning the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from the U.S. Marshals is a well-deserved token of the respect that is due him for his efforts. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his commitment to excellence and his desire to see justice carried out.

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**DIVINITY, DIVERSITY, DIGNITY  
BOUND TOGETHER**

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the following article written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. Rabbi Zoberman's editorial appeared in the Suffolk News-Herald on March 18th.

**DIVINITY, DIVERSITY, DIGNITY BOUND  
TOGETHER**

This is a time of decision beclouded by political partisanship and posturing at home and in the United Nations. Going to war for a democracy is not an easy undertaking as it would be for a dictatorship. The value of human life weighs heavily upon decision-makers in a nation such as ours whose guiding concern is the individual's welfare. That is contrary to a totalitarian regime where the individual is not an end in itself but a means to goals serving the interests of an autocratic ruler. There is thus a vast difference between the conduct of George W. Bush and that of Saddam Hussein, both representing diametrically opposing systems of government.

America is on the verge of confronting Iraq primarily for the sake of eliminating a growing danger to the world by a leader who proved that he would not hesitate to use mass destruction weapons even against his own people. Hussein has not given up his dream of gaining hegemony over a region rich in oil to be used for his own megaloma-

niac purposes as he seeks to establish a nuclear option. He has only become emboldened to get his way by his past defeat in the 1991 Gulf War and consequent limitations posed on Iraq by the United Nations. A wounded and humiliated lion is more dangerous than an uninjured one. History taught us that dictators do not willingly relinquish power.

No doubt, the evil of 9/11 created a greater urgency to respond to forces undermining the world's stability, propelled by the global terrorism of uncompromising militant Islam assailing the West and its values. It begrudges our superior standing and their own longstanding inadequacies. Its aim is tragically not dialogue but a deadly duel they are bound to lose. Al-Qaida, now on the run following their defeat in Afghanistan, was too successful for its own good. It will be relentlessly pursued. Imagine if Osama Bin Ladin invested his large finances in promoting cultural exchange between civilizations! Hussein contributes to terrorism in a variety of ways, including generous monetary rewards to Palestinian families of suicide-homicide bombers who have terrorized Israel, the West's frontier, for over two years, wrecking havoc that no nation would have tolerated so long. The last terrifying terror act in Haifa was in the neighborhood where I grew up and it was Bus #37 and the stop, which I used only a month ago. My sister, a "Real" school counselor, lost two young teenage students among the fifteen dead.

Another hopeful democracy in the making in the Middle East, the first Arab one, alongside Israel's inspiring example, would bode well for an essential transformation of a critical part of the world once blessing humanity with the vision of the sacredness of each human life and now breeding those who violate it in God's name. America standing up for itself would have a sobering effect on those who believe that it has grown too weak to be the world's leader. That is a dangerous scenario we cannot afford.

Power to defend what we rightfully cherish, touching upon our very security and basic way of life, is not to be snickered at. As son of Polish Holocaust survivors I know what the absence of power meant to the Jewish people in our darkest period. Let us take pride in our hard-earned power and in Hampton Roads' leading role in our nation's military mission for freedom's sake, pledging to support all our heroic servicemen and women as well as their families awaiting their safe return. Eleven members of my own over 300 family unit synagogue are in the Persian Gulf arena. At this trying juncture for humanity, America is called upon once more to assert that divinity, diversity and dignity are bound together.

Mr. Speaker, I comment Rabbi Zoberman for his timely and thoughtful statement. As we appear on the verge of war with Iraq, Rabbi Zoberman's words serve as a strong reminder of the differences between the United States and the evil Iraqi regime.

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**DEFENDING AMERICA'S  
HOMELAND**

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in the early hours of the morning, our men and women in uniform began a campaign to defend America's homeland and lib-

erate a population that has been under the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. While thousands of miles away, this nation stands behind these heroes and prays for their safety as they risk their lives in order to protect our freedom and security.

As the great battles of the past have clearly indicated, America's armed forces are the world's strongest, most advanced and will always succeed. While America may be in the early days of this conflict, it is certain that our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen will ultimately prevail and decades of oppression will be lifted from the Iraqi people.

The days ahead represent a struggle to prevent Saddam Hussein's terror from reaching our borders in the future. While the work our soldiers are doing now is in an arena far away, it is a direct accomplishment for the security and safety of America's homeland.

The young men and women in uniform are nothing short of heroic and their country stands proud of the missions they are leading abroad—both military and humanitarian. I would also like to commend their families for the sacrifices they have made for America. These days may be difficult, but the results of their work will forever be remembered and America will prevail.

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**SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS**

**HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our nation, along with a coalition of more than thirty supporting nations, entered into military conflict with the nation of Iraq. I want to express my deepest appreciation for the commitment and resolve of our American men and women in service and their families. I join today with all of my colleagues in offering the unyielding support for all of our troops in the United States Armed Forces and their families.

Joining the thousands of troops from around the world in Iraq are many brave and courageous reservists and enlistees from the Central Valley. I join today with all those who have family members and friends in the region as we hope and pray for their safe and speedy return.

There is no question that Saddam Hussein is destabilizing the region, that he is willing to use deadly force against his own people, and that he is a threat to U.S. security. Yet, regardless of how each of us feels today about entering into this conflict, we must stand resolute behind our Commander in Chief and behind our men and women in uniform. Our hearts and thoughts are with those who will be putting their lives on the line for the sake of freedom in the days ahead.

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**TUNISIA 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great ally of the United States.